

Brightening up

Harmonious mural goes to court

THE COURTROOMS at Juvenile Hall used to be overcrowded and dilapidated. But when the county decided to build new courtrooms there, they added \$16,000 for artwork to brighten up the area.

Thursday, staff and artists got together to dedicate the result: a mural which was created by youth from the Redwoods Program at Juvenile Hall and artists **Ralph D'Oliviera** and **Guillermo Aranda**.

The mural carries symbols of world culture in harmony with the natural environment.

It took the youths two months of preparatory art workshops following by weeks of design and execution, according to **Kathy DeWild** of the county parks department. ...



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Artists Ralph D'Oliviera and Yermo Aranda in front of the mural they helped youths create

COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

County

Art for Juvenile Hall It's a jungle out there — and the new mural planned for the county's Juvenile Hall will reflect that. County supervisors OK'd on a 3-2 vote Tuesday a brightly colored artwork that depicts a cheetah amid lush tropical foliage. Other parts of the artwork show fish and whales in a kelp forest, and a bald eagle flying overhead, talons outstretched.

Watsonville-area Supervisor Ray Belgard and Aptos-area Supervisor Walt Symons voted against the \$16,000 project, which includes art lessons and the participation of some of youthful offenders staying at the hall.

"The money could be spent better on the handling of our juveniles," said Belgard, a former police chief.

Entitled "The Source of Life," the work by Freedom artist Guillermo Aranda and Santa Cruz artist Ralph D'Oliveira pulls together drawings done by the kids in the program.

Sea otters and sharks, anteaters and iguanas are just a few of the creatures featured in the artwork which will decorate the lobby of the new court at the Graham Hill Road building.